

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 1744

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S E C R E T USNATO 2634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE; WARNING OF WAR

REF: (A) STATE 109127 (NOTAL)

(B) USNATO 2515 (NOTAL)

ACTING ON REF A, AMBASSADOR BRUCE ADDRESSED LETTER WITH US LANGUAGE ON WARNING OF WAR TO SYG AND PERMREPS MAY 12. TEXT FOLLOWS BELOW. IS INFORMATLLY INDICATES THAT SUBJECT WILL BE ADDED TO AGENDA FOR MAY 15 DPC MEETING. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY MAY 14 ON DEGREE OF LATITUDE MISSION CAN EXERCISE IN AGREEING TO CHANGES IN US TEXT IF, BY SO DOING, US LANGUAGE WOULD GAIN DPC APPROVAL. IN PARTICULAR, SHOULD FRG, TURKEY OR OTHERS MAKE ACCEPTANCE OF US LANGUAGE CONDITIONAL ON STATEMENT OF WP CAPABILITY REPEAT CAPABILITY FOR SURPRISE ATTACK, CAN MISSION ASSENT TO SUCH AN ADDITION, PROPERLY CAVEATTED WITH STATEMENT OF LOW LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH AN ATTACK, GIVEN POSSIBLE ESCALATORY CONSEQUENCES?

BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER:

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MY AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED ME TO ADVISE YOU THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT THE PRESENT WORDING OF PARAGRAPHS 22 AND 23, CONCERNING WARNING OF WAR, IN THE DRAFT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT, DPC/D(75)4.

LET ME REVIEW BRIEFLY THE REASONING BEHIND OUR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PRESENT PARAGRAPHS 22 AND 23. WE FEEL THAT THEY COULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY NATO PLANNERS AS ESTABLISHING A "BASE CASE" OF PREPARATION TIME FOR A FULL-STRENGTH WARSAW PACT ATTACK WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, IS FAR TOO SHORT. WE FEEL THAT, RATHER THAN PLANNING SIMPLY FOR SUCH A "BASE CASE," NATO AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES MUST PLAN TO RESPOND ADEQUATELY TO A RANGE OF POSSIBLE PREPARATION TIMES.

WE FURTHER FEEL THAT THE STRENGTH OF A WARSAW PACT ATTACK AND THE LENGTH OF ITS PREPARATION TIME ARE INTER-RELATED. THE ALLIANCE WILL HAVE AVAILABLE, AND MUST USE, THE PERIOD OF WARSAW PACT PREPARATIONS TO MATCH THE ENEMY WITH A COUNTER-BUILDUP, STEP-BY-STEP, FOR DETERRENT EFFECT AND DEFENSIVE PREPARADNESS. THE ISSUE IS NOT ONE OF LENGTH OF WARNING PER SE, BUT OF USING REALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE INTERACTION OF LENGTH OF PREPARATION AND STRENGTH OF ATTACK IN OUR DEFENSE PLANNING. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THE PRESENT PARAGRAPHS 22 AND 23 PROVIDE A SOLID BASIS FOR THOSE ASSUMPTIONS.

I HAVE ATTACHED ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE FOR PARAGRAPHS 22 AND 23 WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES, AND REQUEST THAT IT BE CONSIDERED BY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE PRIOR TO PUBLICATION OF THE FINAL MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION BY MINISTERS. IF TIMING WILL NOT PERMIT THIS APPROACH, I REQUEST THAT THE ATTACHED LANGUAGE BE INSERTED, IN BRACKETS, AT THE APPROPRIATE POINT IN DPC/D(75)4.

I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER, AND ITS ATTACHMENT, TO OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

BEGIN TEXT OF ATTACHMENT:

22. NEVERTHELESS SOME BROAD BUT REALISTIC ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE TIME
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WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE TO NATO COUNTRIES TO PUT THEIR FORCES AND ECONOMIES INTO FULL WAR FOOTING ARE ESSENTIAL TO RATIONAL DEFENSE PLANNING. THE BASIS FOR THESE ASSUMPTIONS MAY BE FOUND IN THE CURRENT EDITION OF MC-161(1), WHICH SUMMARIZES WARSAW PACT MILITARY CAPABILITIES REGARDING PREPARATION FOR WAR AND THE CAPABILITY OF NATO INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITIES TO DETECT AND WARN OF SUCH PREPARATION. IT IS EVIDENT THAT READINESS OF IN-PLACE WP FORCES AND THE SPEED OF THEIR REINFORCEMENT ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE STRENGTH OF THEIR ATTACK, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE INTER-RELATED FACTORS.

23. WARLIKE PREPARATIONS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE WARSAW PACT WITHOUT A PRECEDING PERIOD OF POLITICAL TENSION, AND THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASES IN THE READINESS

AND ACTIVITY OF OTHER FORCES, E.G. MARITIME FORCES, PARTICULARLY SSBNS, AND THE STRATEGIC BOMBER FORCES. SUCH PREPARATIONS WOULD BE QUICKLY DETECTABLE, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT EVEN IN THE WORST CASE THESE INDICATORS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE NATO WITH A BRIEF WARNING OF IMPENDING ATTACK. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LONGEST PREPARATORY PERIOD WOULD BE THAT REQUIRED BY THE GROUND AND NAVAL FORCES IF EXTENSIVE REDEPLOYMENT WERE TO OCCUR AND IF MAXIMUM STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS WERE DESIRED. THIS COULD POSSIBLY TAKE SOME WEEKS TO ACCOMPLISH. THUS A RANGE OF WARNING POSSIBILITIES EXISTS, AND MUST BE ACCOUNTED FOR IN NATO DEFENSE PLANNING.

(1) MC-161/75 (DRAFT) , THE WARSAW PACT STRENGTH AND CAPABILITIES.

END TEXT OF ATTACHMENT
BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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